



Joshua Tree National Park

Wildflower Report

Updated March 13, 2015

Weekly wildflower reports are posted on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/blooms.htm>, throughout the peak season (typically mid-February through early May). Add your observations and photos of wildflowers to the Joshua Tree National Park Wildflower Watch project using the free app iNaturalist, or check it out online at <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/joshua-tree-national-park-wildflower-watch>.

Cottonwood

Mastodon Peak to
Cottonwood Canyon



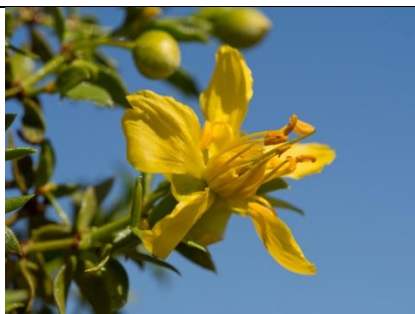
A few Desert Canterbury Bells *Phacelia campanularia* can be found along sandy washes from Mastodon Peak, Cottonwood Wash and Silvia's Wash.



The Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) [photo above] are beginning to flower. While at higher elevations in the Northwest of the park, the Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) have sporadic blooms. In the Cottonwood area, Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) are past their peak, yet Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) are still strong in Cottonwood Canyon at Mile Marker 33 and up the side canyon to the northeast. This side-canyon, Silvia's Wash, has a few other mostly perennial flowers blooming such as Climbing Milkweed (*Funastrum hirtellum*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Trixis (*Trixis californica*), Parish's Goldeneye (*Bahiopsis parishii*), Desert Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Desert Rock Pea (*Acmispon rigidus*), and Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*).

Porcupine Wash

Pinto Basin Road



Creosote Bushes (*Larrea tridentate*) [photo above] are flowering along the Pinto Basin Road. Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) are past their peak. Other blooming perennials in the area are Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Parish's Goldeneye (*Bahiopsis parishii*), Emory's Rockdaisy (*Perityle emoryi*), Desert Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*), and Desert Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*).

**Wilson Canyon to
Ocotillo Patch**
Pinto Basin Road



Some Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*) buds have bloomed at Cholla Garden and Ocotillo Patch.



At the mouth of Wilson Canyon, Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) [photos above] are the most noticeable yellow flower along the road, since the Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) are past their peak. Also during cooler mornings, the Datura (*Datura wrightii*) has lovely white to purple-shaded trumpets blooming. The Ocotillos (*Fouquieria splendens*) are covered with green leaves, and most have flowers or buds.

**Jumbo Rocks
Campground**



A walk along the Skull Rock Trail has few noticeable flowers until you see the bright red of Paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*). Purple flowered Freckled Milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus*) are blooming along the road west of Skull Rock.

Black Rock Canyon
Joshua Lane, Yucca
Valley, CA



Colorful patches of annual flowers are emerging along the Hi-View Nature Trail like this Whitedaisy Tidytip (*Layia glandulosa*), and these Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). Many Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) are blooming!

Let Them Grow

Leave wildflowers undisturbed for others to enjoy. Joshua Tree was first established as a national monument in 1936 to protect desert vegetation that was being carried away and planted in Los Angeles gardens. Today, help us continue in our mission “to preserve unimpaired” the beautiful plants of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: don’t pick wildflowers.